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LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit for your kind attention a letter dated 12 January 1996 from H.E. Mr. Ali Osman Taha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan (see annex). The letter is concerning the Ethiopian aggression against the airspace and territory of the Sudan.

May I request that an urgent meeting of the Security Council be called to deal with the issue in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the mandate of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security.

I also request the circulation of the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali M. O. YASSIN

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Annex

Letter dated 12 January 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am duty-bound to bring to your kind attention a series of serious developments that took place in the context of the relations between my country and the neighbouring Ethiopia. In a provocative aggression against my country, Ethiopia launched a military aggression against a number of locations inside the eastern state of Ghadarif in the Republic of the Sudan.

1. The armed aggression was started on 23 December 1995 by the Ethiopian army against a border garrison in the area between Khor Shein and Wad Koly. As a result, a senior officer and five soldiers were killed; five were injured and two were considered as missing.

2. Another aggression was committed against a frontier area called Basalam (north of Salam River) on 27 December 1995, accompanied by the heavy artillery bombardment of the Allakadi area. The Sudan, at the outset, had the impression that these attacks were perpetrated by the Ethiopian armed gangs called "Shifta", but the involvement of heavy artillery in the attack confirmed that the perpetrators are none other than the Ethiopian army. This is further confirmed by an Ethiopian airfighter violation of Sudanese airspace on the same day.

3. Following that attack, the Ethiopian army committed another act of aggression against the border point of Hamrayat Al-Rahad on 28 December 1995, using massive force, and occupied the area. The Sudanese armed forces defending the area faced that aggression and inflicted heavy casualties among the invading forces.

4. On 1 January 1996, the Ethiopian army attacked the border point of Al-Allaw on Siteet River and occupied it.

The Government of the Sudan exercised the utmost self-restraint to contain the incidents through diplomatic channels. The Ethiopian side was urged to comply with the bilateral agreements, which stipulate that the armed forces of each country should be confined to their previous sites, with a weapon-free area and buffer zone which disengages and separates them.

5. Despite the self-restraint exercised by the Sudan and the contacts initiated by the Sudan to contain these incidents, the Ethiopian army attacked Taya point, which is located far inside Sudanese territory, on 11 January 1996 and occupied this point. The Sudanese armed forces had to deal with this new aggression and accordingly the aggressors were inflicted with high casualties and two tanks were destroyed.

6. It is the conviction of the Government of the Sudan that such persistent, blatant and intensive aggression by the Ethiopian army confirms the complicity of Ethiopia in the designs and plots aiming at dismembering and destabilizing

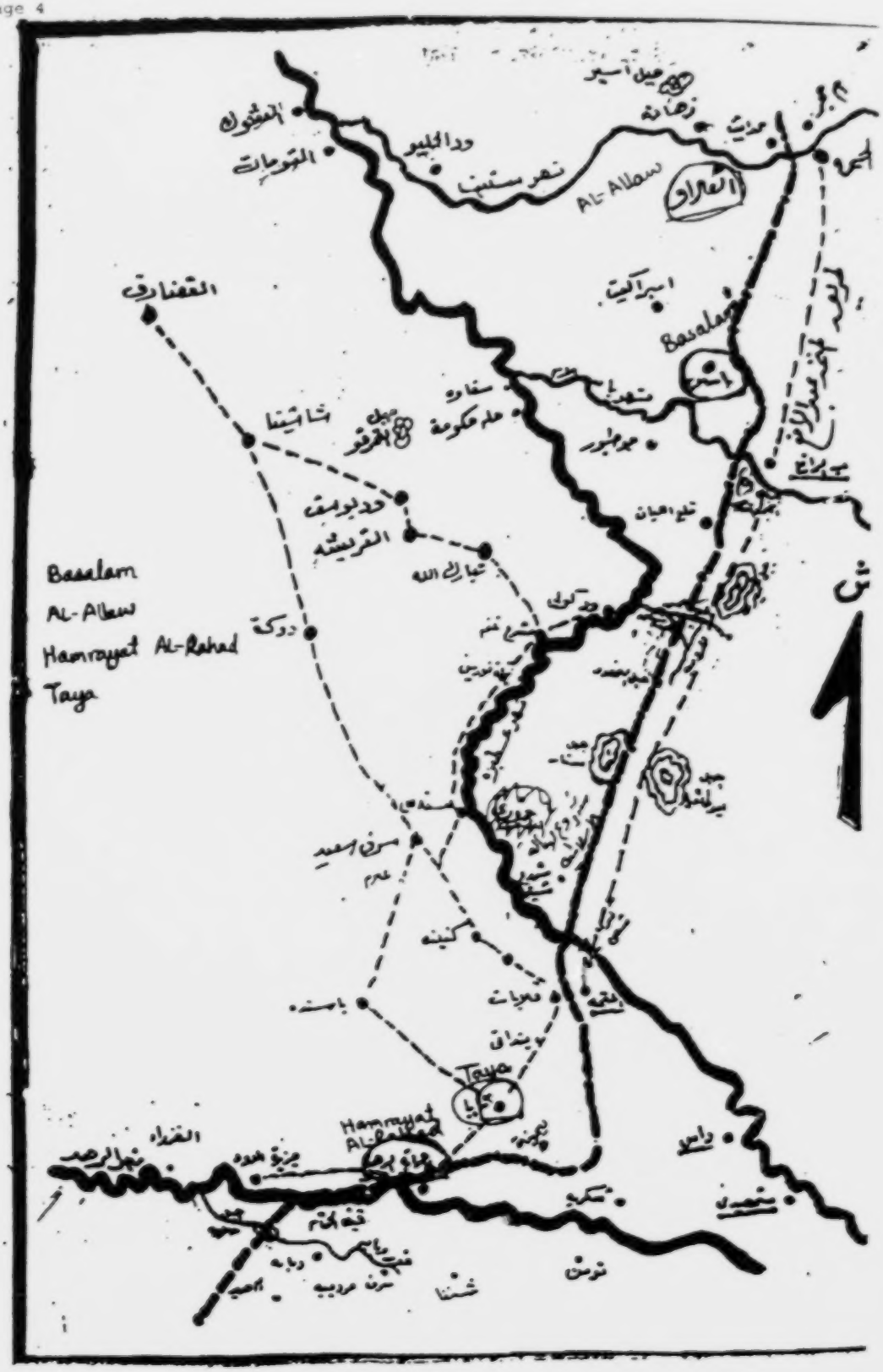
the Sudan and threatening the security and stability of the region and the world.

I request you to bring these serious developments to the attention of the members of the Security Council to take up their responsibilities in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the sovereignty of States and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territories of other States through the use of force.

I also request that the esteemed Security Council take the necessary measures to ensure that Ethiopia cease its aggression against the territory of the Sudan and compensate the victims of its aggression.

I further request that an urgent meeting of the Security Council be called to consider ways and means to stop the Ethiopian aggression against the Sudan.

(Signed) Ali Osman Mohamed TAHA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